GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:41
ANSWERED ON:06.02.2017
Development Schemes for Tea Industry
Ajmal Maulana Badruddin

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tea Board/Government has taken adequate measures for the development of tea industry in the country especially in Assam and if so, the details thereof including schemes under implementation;

(b) whether schemes are being implemented by the Government for the welfare of tea workers/labourers also and if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) whether the Government proposes to provide any special package for the development of tea gardens and also welfare of workers/labourers with respect to education, health and sanitation and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

a) to c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 41 FOR ANSWER ON 06TH FEBRUARY, 2017 REGARDING "DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES FOR TEA INDUSTRY"

(a): The Central Government, through Tea Board, is promoting the development of tea industry in the country, including Assam, by way of regulations under the Tea Act, 1953. Further, Tea Board is also implementing "Tea Development and Promotion Scheme (TDPS)". The scheme, inter alia, includes activities for improvement in tea production, productivity, quality up-gradation, research and extension, promotion of exports and value addition through provisions of financial and technical assistance to growers and other stakeholders of the tea industry. A total amount of Rs.596 crore has been spent so far in the 12th plan period under the Scheme by the Tea Board.

(b)& (c): The working condition of tea garden workers in the country are governed by the Plantation Labour Act (PLA), 1951, administered by Ministry of Labour &Employment and enforced by the concerned state governments. The Act requires the employers to provide the workers with housing, medical facilities, sickness and maternity benefits and other forms of social security measures. There are provisions for educational facility for the children, drinking water, conservancy, canteens, crÃ¨ches and recreational facilities for the benefit of the tea plantation workers and their families in and around the work places in the tea estates. The Labour Department of the State Governments monitor the implementation of the provisions of this Act.
Tea Board is also implementing Human Resource Development (HRD) activities aiming at improving the health and hygiene of workers, education of wards of workers and imparting training to improve skills for growers/workers. The State-wise details of assistance provided, during the 12th Plan Period from 2012-13 to 2016-17 (till December 2016) are given in the following Table:

State	Total (Rs. cr)
Assam	18.64
Arunachal Pradesh	0.36
Tripura	0.41
West Bengal	5.33
Tamil Nadu	4.11
Kerala	4.33
Karnataka	0.03
Himachal Pradesh	0.03
Total	33.24

In view of the provisions of PLA, 1951, and the TPDS already under implementation, there is no proposal, at present under consideration for any special package for the development of tea gardens and welfare of workers/labourers with respect to education, health and sanitation.
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